# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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NEFERTARI, WIFE OF RAMESES II.
Example of Later Egyptian Art.

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### Note To Teachers

Back copies of many issues of The Geographic News Bulletin are exhausted. Hence requests from teachers who wish their files complete cannot always be filled. A lapse in your receipt of The Bulletin may be avoided by noting that all requests made last March must be renewed in March, 1923. For this purpose the blank at the end of Bulletin No. 4 may be used.

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

## Cairo: Tomb Digging Makes It Tourist Center

WHAT Bagdad was in the days of Haroun-al-Raschid, Cairo is today. Now it gains added prestige as the city to which thousands will go on their way to the treasure tomb of Tut-ankh-Amen.

Just as the mantle of Rome passed west to London and New York, so the mantle of the metropolis of the Arabic speaking world has passed west and has fallen on the great city of the Nile, which took on new interest with the emergence of Egypt as a kingdom.

Cairo is a living kaleidoscope; its colored fragments are tumbled into place not merely from East and West, but from North and South as well. White-robed Bedouin, ill-clad fellah, shiny-black Sudanese and central African negro, swarthy Turk, Persian, Hindu, Mongolian, dusky Moor, Italian, Greek, Armenian, and the whiter folk from Europe, America and the antipodes—all are jumbled together in Cairo, their various tongues making a babel that can hardly be duplicated at any other spot on earth.

### Down the Centuries by Trolley

The life of Cairo is almost what you will. Do you want the finest of European hotels with the last word in luxury? They are there. Do you long for the bazaars of the true East? You will find them just around the corner. Would you see the primitive life of the humble city dweller, the inn of the desert wanderer, student life among Mohammedan youth, the crowds about the mosques, the palaces of Eastern potentates—they are all within easy reach. And if you would journey swiftly and cheaply into the past you need only board an electric trolley car and be whisked through a few miles of sand to the Pyramids of Gizeh and the Sphinx.

The life that ebbs and flows along some of the streets of Cairo is like nothing so much as a circus parade back home. Deliberate camels move along with brightly dressed riders perched upon them or with suspended cars in which are veiled damsels, while drummers thunder their rhythm and fife blowers emit their shrill notes. Snake-charmers pass along with their bags of snakes; magicians perform in some nook; bullock-carts and laden donkeys compete for space with shining limousines.

### Cafe Tables Halt Street Traffic

The al fresco cafe is one of the most characteristic marks of Cairo. It is not the well ordered affair of the boulevards of Paris. Sidewalks and streets overflow with seemingly innumerable chairs and tables until often a single file of pedestrians can hardly force its way through. One gets the impression that few people need to work in Cairo. Even in the mornings the chairs are filled with apparently prosperous men sipping coffee or sweetened water, puffing cigarettes, and talking. Toward noon they disappear for their siestas, but again at four or five o'clock they are out in force and remain far into the night. Among them circulates a stream of peddlers offering for sale almost every conceivable ware from sweetmeats to mouse-traps and underwear.



UMI

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**ALL IS NOT GREEN IN GREENLAND**

Here is shown a curious waterfall springing from the end wall of a large glacier. At the time this picture was taken the temperature was 42° F., and the ice on the surface of the glacier was melting so rapidly that the waterfall was formed. The dark portion below the water is not a cave, but clear blue-black ice.

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## Guiana: Country of Mythical El Dorado and Mis-named Guinea Pig

WHAT is the biggest real estate transfer ever recorded in the New World? Any little group of questionnaire addicts who encountered that inquiry probably would begin wondering whether Muscle Shoals had been sold, or whether somebody had purchased the Woolworth Building.

New York once was traded for Paramaribo.

### Little Tropical City Traded for New York

The real estate record of the transaction is to be found in the Treaty of Breda, by which, in 1667, the Dutch gave New Amsterdam to England and England turned over pretty little Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana's capital, to Holland.

To put it mildly, Paramaribo today is not known so widely as it might be. Neither is Suriname, which is the commoner name for Dutch Guiana; nor Demerara, which is locally used to designate British Guiana.

And Guiana itself missed a chance for fame through a typographical error. The humble guinea pig, a native son, would have carried its home land's name into popular usage had not early writers confused the habitat of the rodent with African Guinea—a confusion which is not altogether overcome to this day.

### Almost An Island

Yet, Guiana, proper, is about a third as large as the United States, and occupies a conspicuous position on the "forehead" of South America.

British Guiana, French Guiana and Dutch Guiana are not all of Guiana; there also is Venezuelian Guiana and Brazilian Guiana. Thus "Greater" Guiana comprises the region between the Orinoco and the Amazon; in fact Guiana is a sort of island because these rivers, along with the Rio Negro and Casiquiarie, form its boundary.

It is not an inexcusable error to class Dutch Guiana with the West Indies for, in respect to communication and commerce, it is all but cut off from its South American neighbors, and does business with Trinidad and with Holland direct.

Florida failed to reveal its fountain of youth to Ponce de Leon but its Miamis have yielded restorative gifts to many thousands of mid-winter pilgrims. Although the Guianas failed Sir Walter Raleigh in his quest for a promised land of gold and gems, that region may yet become an economic El Dorado by the saner romance of modern development.

### "Gold-Plated" People

For getting his lies believed the fluent and facile Juan Martinez outranks Munchausen or Ananias. His tales of Manoa, where the monuments were marvels of lustrous gold, and where men were anointed with oil and then sprinkled with pulverized gold, captured the imaginations of many explorers even before Sir Walter Raleigh penetrated the humid interior of Guiana in search of this El Dorado.



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The dweller in Cairo who has not his servant or his group of servants is low indeed in the economic scale. These serving men carry tiny bundles for their employers—masters, one might say. They run ahead of carriages to clear the way; they fan away the flies; and one after another they come in troops into the presence of the prosperous to bring smoking materials or to offer a bewildering succession of drinks and foods. Life is hard and a few cents a day satisfies them. Even the porters who carry heavy bundles and the boatmen who laboriously pole the Nile craft against the current for twelve or fifteen hours receive little more.

### The Oxford of Islam

In Cairo is the Oxford of the Mohammedan world, the University of El-Azhar. It seems a queer "university" to those familiar with the higher institutions of learning of the West. Its classrooms are the halls and niches of a mosque. Its professors receive no salaries but are primarily religious officials, government employes, lawyers and the like who teach in addition to performing their regular duties. The pupils, who at times number more than 5,000, squat on mats while their instructors lecture. This premier college of the Moslem world has been in existence for 950 years and hundreds of thousands of students have passed through its doors. It has been the center of the Nationalist propaganda which has sought entire freedom for Egypt.

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**MUMMIFIED MONKEYS FROM THE TOMB OF AMENHOTEP II.**

**Other curious contents of the tombs were mummified ducks and chickens. These were preserved in wooden vessels, carved to represent the bird they contained. Another vessel contained delicious honey, which had been there for thousands of years.**

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## Transjordania: Land of the Friendly Desert

WHERE is Transjordania, and what is it?

These questions arise as Transjordania appears more frequently in date lines.

Another name for Transjordania is the Emirate of Kerak. Geographically it is easy to locate—it is an area, almost as large as the State of Maryland, lying between the River Jordan and the Syrian desert.

### A Political Enigma

Politically, Transjordania's affairs have been highly complicated since the Armistice. On the borderland of French and British influence, feeling the native pull of Syria, Hedjaz, Palestine, and Mesopotamia, and now a center of Arabian nationalists, she has awakened with a jolt from her age-long tranquility.

A small river, like hundreds across which modern trains dash with scarcely a rumble to mark their passage, has separated Transjordania and Western Palestine from the time of Moses till today.

Transjordania is the home of paradoxes, where Arab tents, long symbols of transitory residence, have persisted while rich Roman ruins, once the gathering places of cultured crowds, have disappeared; where the desert, which to so many signifies death, has furnished a welcome haven to many to whom the narrow Jordan seems an impassable gulf.

### Why Jordan Is a Barrier

To civilization, the deepest and swiftest river is only an incident. But the trackless desert is a barrier, not easily passed. Not so in Transjordania. Up on its high plateau, swept by refreshing breezes, the desert is a neighbor so near that none can say just where its boundary lies. With the changing seasons, the boundary moves with the population and the crops and flocks. But the deep depression of the Jordan is a permanent barrier across which the commerce of the ages has flowed but which has turned back the shepherd to his cooler hills and open plains.

Sheep and camels can easily venture out into the desert, following the changing fodder line according to the season. But few traverse the great gash which yawns between the Mount of Olives and the heights of Pisgah.

The city has its traffic rules, enforced by agents of the law. Not so the desert village in the land of Gilead or the Ammonites. There the traffic shifts in keeping with the movements of the sun. Shepherd and camel-driver seek the elusive shadows of the scanty shelters.

### Thrives on Changes; Remains Changeless

Transjordania is the land of the impermanent. It thrives on changes which change it not. Cities have risen and fallen, highways been laboriously

So generally is the term now used in a figurative sense to denote any fanciful rainbow's end that it is hard to realize how seriously the tales of Martinez, and lesser liars, were credited. Indeed, El Dorado's mythical court city, the lake on which it was supposed to be located, and the estimated extent of the country itself appeared on maps until the serious scrutiny of Humboldt exploded the fairy tale.

Dutch Guiana is about the size of Florida. The British first held it; and the Dutch first held what now is British Guinea. The easternmost of the three foreign holdings, French Guiana, is used, in part, as a penal colony.

Along the coast of Dutch Guiana is a strip of transplanted Holland. Back in its forests is a bit of Africa, inhabited by Bushmen who live much as do their Dark Continent cousins. The Africans were imported in slave days, and chased back to the forest fastnesses when the tax collector came around. Many of them found their tropical environment there so home-like that they eluded their owners. The Indians are mostly Arawaks.

### Streets Shaded by Mahoganies

Paramaribo has the immaculate appearance of a Dutch city; it has one natural extravagance of which it is proud, its streets lined with mahogany shade trees. For the trees on one block, spreading over neat weather-board houses, a lumber firm once offered $50,000, and the residents declined to sell.

Yet Paramaribo, like Dutch Guiana, needed the money. Thrifty and careful development of Suriname's resources met with a series of untoward circumstances. First the cacoa yielded bountiful crops and then suffered blight. Sugar-cane was introduced, and attacked by a disease. The indomitable colonists turned to bananas, and an epidemic overtook them. Yet in 1911 the little colony exported $3,000,000 worth of goods, mostly sugar, gold and cacoa. Back in its timberlands American firms now are obtaining wood pulp. A railroad pushes 50 miles into its forests. Despite early disaster sugar is the chief crop.

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**MOUNTAINEERS OF ALBANIA, IN GALA ATTIRE, CELEBRATING A FEAST DAY IN TOWN.**
**(See Bulletin No. 5)**

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## Greenland: In Grip of the Great Ice Age

THE LARGEST island of the world (if Australia be classed as a continent), the land reaching closest to the North Pole, the country harboring the northernmost civilized community, and the one land mass where conditions of the great ice age are now dominant—such is Greenland.

Mercator of map fame has unwittingly confused the mind of the world in regard to Greenland. Because the sphere is flattened out on many maps as though its surface were stretched, Greenland, vast as it is, is made to appear many times larger. It is as though the country were reflected in one of the mirrors set up at county fairs to make the thin appear fat.

### Population That of Manhattan Office Building

But viewed properly, the great northern island bulks large enough to command respect. If its northernmost point were placed at the Canadian border in North Dakota its southernmost point would reach to the mouth of the Rio Grande, the southern extremity of Texas. Its greatest width is approximately equal to the distance from New York to Chicago.

But though the island is almost continental in size, having an area of about 800,000 square miles, it has only 15,000 inhabitants, the daily population of a single huge office building in lower New York City. The reason for this sparse population is not alone the far northern position of the country, for the lower half of the island is in approximately the same latitude as the Scandinavian peninsula with its 8,000,000 souls. But while Scandinavia is bathed by the warm Gulf Stream, and Iceland too is benefited by it, Greenland lies far from its influence and is washed only by icy Arctic currents.

Exposed to the full effects of the frosts of the Arctic, the great island which at one time in geologic history had the climate and verdure of California, has been changed into a frozen desert. The once green hills and valleys and even mountains have been literally buried under a sheet of snow and ice varying from hundreds to thousands of feet in thickness. All but a few mountain peaks have been submerged, and the entire vast interior of the country is a nearly level plateau of ice.

### Mighty Rivers With Banks of Ice

Only a narrow fringe along a part of the coast is free from the ice cap, and even this ground is frozen in winter and covered with snow. It is along the fiords of these narrow ice-free sections of the coast that the few thousand Eskimos and the handful of Danes that make up the population of Greenland find a precarious livelihood.

During the short summer the interior of Greenland presents phenomena to be found nowhere else in the world; but the frozen wastes are inaccessible and only a few eyes have beheld the changes that take place there when the sun swings to the north. Great lakes are formed; mighty rivers flow between blue crystal banks, their waters never touching a stone nor a fragment of soil until they finally plunge down some chasm in the ice. Glaciers push out of the

constructed only to fall into disrepair more impassable than the surrounding fields.

Nomad tents, long since the poetic symbol of transitory residence, continue to dot the plain, while rich ruins crumble away before the careless attacks of Arab or Circassian, to whom a beautiful carving is only a quarried stone. The theater of Amman and the Naumachia of Jerash, once the gathering places of multitudes of leisurely folk who boasted their civilization, are being ruthlessly destroyed by those whose main demand of a dwelling is that it shall outlast its builder's immediate need.

Gilead is there, with its oaks, also the Hauran with its rich fields of grain, unshaded by a single tree except those few semisacred monarchs which shelter the tiny tombs of long-dead saints. There, too, is the land of the Ammonites, whither David sent Uriah.

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**A SIMILAR SCENE COULD HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES.**

**Cameleers settled down for the night: a little fire in the center and their camel furniture behind their backs.**

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## Tirana: Europe's Remotest Capital

THERE comes a time in the affairs of very young republics when an inconspicuous, inaccessible capital is a governmental isle of safety.

Hence Tegucigalpa, of the short-lived Republic of Central America. Hence, also, Tirana, of Albania. Both are inland cities without railroads.

Any city in Albania would serve as a capital were the absence of a railroad the only consideration. Durazzo, which has held that distinction most of the time since Albania became independent, in 1912, had no railroad, but it had a harbor. And a harbor on the Adriatic, as in the case of Fiume, may be dangerous asset. Until the beginning of the World War Durazzo and Tirana were connected by a 20-mile stretch of the only well paved highway in Albania.

### Is No Mean City

With your conception of Albania as a rugged and primitive land, whose people "occasionally die from ordinary disease, but more often from differences of opinion," you might be prepared to find in Tirana a sort of frontier settlement with few municipal refinements. If you landed there in an airplane you would have scant evidence that you were in a frequent storm center of the wildest country in Europe. You would see a rich bazaar, wide, paved streets, mosques of considerable beauty, many squares with fountains playing in them, residences that are truly palatial, and evidence that commerce and industry thrive.

You could acquire as souvenirs of your visit specimens of locally made brass work, distinctive and beautiful embroideries, done by the Tirana women and sold by them in the market places, and even a non-smoker would wish to take along one of the oddly and intricately carved pipes.

The city covers a larger area than its 15,000 or so inhabitants would seem to need, judged by our standards. Yet you might have a difficult time convincing a Tiranian, with his cottage and garden, that a more vertical mode of living, in crowded apartments, would be more civilized. Once you strolled beyond the bounds of Tirana, though, you would encounter mud houses, and the "simple life" to an extreme degree.

### Albania's One National Hero

Tirana's situation and climate would make it an ideal health resort, were the outdoor-living sheep herders of inner Albania in need of such a health aid. But more salubrious still, and even more picturesquely situated, on a precipice of the westernmost chain of Albania's mountains, is Kroia (or Kruya), home of the country's great and only national hero.

In and around Kroia, Scanderberg, victor in a score of fierce battles with the Turks, fortified himself for a quarter of a century. During that time he kept up a guerrilla warfare against the Sultan's forces until, in 1461, he was recognized as an overlord of Albania. Legend has it that he slew 3,000 Turks by his own hand.

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countless fiords, some discharging ice into the sea at the rate of 50 to 100 feet a day.

Mosses and lichens and a few flowers and shrubs spring to sudden life in the summer along the ice-free fringes of the coast, but few vegetables except radishes, turnips and lettuce can be grown. The people of Greenland are almost entirely dependent for food on the sea and on supplies brought from outside.

### U. S. Had Claim to Greenland

Greenland was discovered and settled by Eric the Red from Iceland nearly 1,000 years ago—the father of Leif Ericson, who soon afterwards discovered America. The settlements throve for 400 years but mysteriously disappeared before Columbus' discovery. The early settlers were Norwegians. Later Norway was combined for a time with Denmark and the Danes became the heirs to the bleak island. A Danish missionary who reached the southwest shores of Greenland in 1721 was the first to renew Scandinavian settlement of the country. Other settlers followed and Denmark established a paternal government over the Eskimos of the south.

Northwest Greenland was discovered, explored and occupied as a base for Polar expeditions by Americans during the nineteenth century—notably by Peary and Greely. When the United States purchased the Danish West Indies in 1917, as part of the purchase consideration it relinquished all claim to any part of Greenland. Since then the Danish Government has extended its authority to the sparsely settled northwest coast and to all other inhabited sections of the island.

The towns of Greenland are few and unimportant. Godhaven, the capital of the northern Inspectorate, is the chief settlement and yet has only a few hundred inhabitants. Upernivik near latitude 73° is the northernmost "town" in the world. Julianehaab, near the southwest point of the island, is close to the site of the settlement of Eric the Red, and in the vicinity are still to be seen ruins of the stone houses and churches built in this isolated corner of America in the days of the early Crusades.

**Bulletin No. 4, March 12, 1923.**

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## Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the Geographic News Bulletin were made for the year ending with a March, 1923, issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

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National Geographic Society
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Kindly send ..... copies of the Geographic News Bulletin for the school year beginning with the issue of February 12, for class room use, to

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SEINING IN THE OCEAN OFF BRITISH GUIANA.

## Sources For Additional Pictures and Information

Following is a partial bibliography, extracted from "The Cumulative Index of the National Geographic Magazine" (1899-1922, inclusive), which index may now be had from the headquarters of the National Geographic Society. (Cloth $1.50, postpaid in U. S. A.) A limited supply of some numbers of The Geographic may be ordered from The Society's offices at the prices named. Those numbers marked with an asterisk (*) are out of print, but may be consulted in any public library and in well-equipped school libraries.

**The Resurrection of Ancient Egypt.** By James Baikie. Vol. XXIV, pp. 957-1020, 46 ills., 1 page map, September, 1913. (*)

**Modern Egypt: Along the Nile, Through Egypt and the Sudan.** By Frederick Simpich. Vol. XLII, pp. 379-410, 29 ills. October, 1922. (*)

**Guiana, British: An Impression of the Guiana Wilderness.** By Angelo Heilprin. Vol. XVIII, pp. 373-381, 6 ills. June, 1907. 75c.

**Kaieteur and Roraima: The Great Falls and the Great Mountain of the Guianas.** By Henry Edward Crampton. Vol. XXXVIII, pp. 227-244, 12 ills., 1 half-page map. September, 1920. 50c.

**Guiana, Dutch: Picturesque Paramaribo.** By Harriet Chalmers Adams. Vol. XVIII, pp. 365-373, 7 ills. June, 1907. 75c.

**The Cradle of Civilization: The Historic Lands Along the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.** By James Baikie. Vol. XXIX, pp. 127-162, 25 ills. February, 1916. 50c.

**Jordan: The Route Over Which Moses Led the Children of Israel Out of Egypt.** By Franklin E. Hoskins. Vol. XX, pp. 1011-1038, 24 ills., 1 page map. December, 1909. 75c.

**Scenes From Greenland.** Vol. XX, pp. 877-891, 1 insert, 15 ills., no text. October, 1909. (*)

**A Hunting Trip to Northern Greenland.** By Fullerton Merrill. Vol. XI, pp. 118-122. March, 1900. 75c.

**The Albanians.** By Theron J. Damon. Vol. XXIII, pp. 1090-1102, 14 ills. November, 1912. 50c.

**Recent Observations in Albania.** By Brig. Gen. George P. Scriven. Vol. XXXIV, pp. 90-114, 21 ills., 1 half-page map. August, 1918. 50c.

**The Races of Europe.** By Edwin A. Grosvenor, L.H.D., LL.D. Vol XXXIV, pp. 441-533, 62 ills., 2 page maps, 1 insert. December, 1918. 50c.